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EXTRACT FROM THE HISTORY
OF THE
THIRD REGIMENT
R. I. HEAVY ARTILLERY,

PUBLISHED IN THE
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT

OF THE
State of Rhode Island,

(REPRINT OF 1865)

1893.

PRINTED BY THE THIRD RHODE ISLAND VETERAN ASSOCIATION FOR ITS MEMBERS.

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THIRD REGIMENT RHODE ISLAND HEAVY ARTILLERY.

Within the limits prescribed, only the most succinct outline can be presented of the varied and extended services of this regiment. The period of its service extended from August, 1861, to September, 1865, during which time its several Companies were scattered over a wide territory and many States; serving now as infantry, now as heavy artillery, now as light artillery, and at times detachments from different companies serving for longer or shorter periods upon armed transports as coast guard or on special service. The principal field of its activities was in the Department of the South, which embraced South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, under the command successively of Generals Thomas W. Sherman, David Hunter, Ormsby M. Mitchel, Quincy A. Gillmore and John G. Foster; against whom commanded in succession Generals Robert E. Lee, John C. Pemberton and G. T. Beauregard. The brevity of this sketch determines its plan, which rigidly excludes all personal matters, all matters of detail, as well as extended comments upon the events chronicled. It seeks to group the widely scattered and multiform services of the different companies of this Regiment under the general movements of the army or armies to which they belonged.

ORGANIZATION.

July 23, 1861, Governor Sprague issued General Order No. 42, calling for the organization of a "Third Regiment of Infantry," and enlistments were commenced at once. August 6th, the order was temporarily re-called, but re-issued in a modified form August 12th, in General Order No. 46, by which the organization of the Regiment was entrusted to the following officers: "Brig. Gen.

Charles T. Robbins, acting as Colonel, Christopher Blanding, acting as Lieutenant Colonel, and Peter A. Simmott, Major, with Brigade Major Joseph P. Balch as assistant to General Robbins." Drs. Henry W. Rivers and Robert Millar were appointed medical examiners. A little later, Asher R. Eddy, captain in the regular army, was invited to take the place of acting Colonel Robbins. The above officers, however, were only temporary, and no one of them was ever mustered upon commissions for these positions. Land upon the estate of the late Governor, John Brown Francis, below Pawtuxet, was selected for the camp, named Camp Ames, in honor of the Chief Justice of the State, Samuel Ames, and here the companies began to assemble in August, and some three weeks were spent in mustering, clothing and drilling the men.

September 7th the Regiment, consisting of nine companies under command of acting Lieut.-Col. Blanding, embarked at Providence on the steamer "Commodore" for Fort Hamilton, on Long Island, N. Y., where forces were gathering under the command of Gen. Thomas W. Sherman. Here the Regiment commenced daily drill in the manual of field, siege and garrison artillery, as well as in infantry tactics. September 14th the Regiment was suddenly summoned by Gen. Scott to Washington, where it arrived the next day and encamped in "Camp Sprague," but on the 22d it was at Fort Hamilton again, and assiduously drilling from morning until night. Here the tenth company, Co. H, was formed, and the permanent organization completed, and October 9th a large number of officers were mustered, among them Nathaniel W. Brown, Colonel; Stephen R. Bucklin, Lieutenant Colonel; Edwin Metcalf, Major.

While at Fort Hamilton the Regiment received many tokens of esteem from the ladies of Rhode Island: a set of camp colors from Mrs. Wm. P. Martin; a beautiful regimental flag, presented by Major Metcalf in behalf of the ladies of Providence; and many articles of comfort from Mrs. Stephen R. Bucklin and other ladies of Pawtucket. Though the Regiment was still nominally a regiment of infantry, yet it was in reality preparing to do the service of a regiment of heavy artillery. Special Order No. 333, dated December 19th, from the Adjutant General's Office at Washington changed the name of the Regiment, officially, to that of the "Third Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery," and authorized it to be increased to twelve companies of one hundred and fifty men each.

Recruiting offices were opened in Providence under Christopher Blanding and Henry T. Sisson, both of whom were soon after commissioned as the two additional majors in the new organization. Recruits were rapidly sent forward to fill up the companies, and in March, 1862, the two new majors arrived with a large number, and two additional companies, L and M, were formed.

EXPEDITION TO PORT ROYAL.

October 12th the Regiment embarked on the steamship "Cahawba" and proceeded to Fortress Munroe, where the military and naval forces were gathering under Gen. Thomas W. Sherman and Commodore Samuel F. Du Pont, preparatory to a descent upon the coast of South Carolina. Here the Regiment was encamped until the 23d, when it again embarked upon the same steamer, but was destined to wait another week before the expedition was ready to set sail. While in camp at this place, the Regiment exchanged its uniform of gray for that of the Union Blue, and companies A and C received Whitney rifles with sabre bayonets in exchange for their Enfield muskets. October 29th the expedition got under way, seventeen war vessels with thirty transports and supply vessels, and on board the "Expeditionary Corps" of Gen. Sherman, consisting of 12,653 officers and men. After a very stormy passage and the loss of four vessels, the fleet began to assemble again off Port Royal, South Carolina, November 4th. The Regiment was present at the naval engagement November 7th, but did not participate, as planned, in the capture of the forts, as the participation of the land forces had to be abandoned in consequence of the loss during the voyage of the greater portion of the means of disembarkment of troops. Two companies, however, B and C, were landed on the day of the engagement, and the remainder of the Regiment on the following day. This was the only expedition in which the Regiment served as a unit. Never after this were the ten companies brought together in any one combined movement, and even when several companies served in the same campaign, they were not all in the same command. Soon after landing at Port Royal the companies were separated never to meet again as a regiment, not even at their final muster out. Companies B and C garrisoned Fort Welles on Hilton Head, companies D and H Fort Seward at Bay

Point, Co. I was later sent to Otter Island to garrison Fort Drayton, and the remainder of the Regiment manned the entrenchment which it helped construct on Hilton Head. The headquarters of the Regiment under Colonel Brown were at Fort Welles, and Lieutenant-Colonel Bucklin assumed command at Bay Point.

The history and services of the Regiment may be better understood, if, at this point, there be given a sketch of the field of operations and the work to be done, as yet somewhat undetermined, but gradually determined later by circumstances. Gen. Sherman found in his front, formed and forming, a formidable strategic line, its right resting on Fort McAllister on the Ogeechee River, sixteen miles south of Savannah, passing through Fort Beaulieu on Vernon River, and strong batteries on the intervening islands to Forts Thunderbolt, Bonaventure and Clausten's Bluff on St. Augustine Creek, to Forts Jackson, Lee, Tatnall and Lawton on the Savannah immediately in front of the city, and thence on to the left of the line, resting on Charleston Harbor. The advanced posts of this line were at Fort Pulaski, New River Bridge, Bluffton, Port Royal Ferry, and on the extreme left, James and Morris Island and Fort Sumter. The extreme right of the enemy's line extended across Georgia to Jacksonville on the St. John's River in Florida. This line of some two hundred miles in length was at the time under the command of no less a personage than General Robert E. Lee. This was the principal theatre of action of the Third Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, some portions of which were actively engaged at every salient point of this most stubbornly defended line during the next four years, participating in every engagement in siege and field, either as infantry, or as heavy artillery, or as light artillery, or a part of the naval force.

Immediately on securing the base at Port Royal, the army and navy deployed in every direction by land and sea, northward toward Charleston to St. Helena Sound, and southward to the Savannah, and even further south to Florida. During November and December, the principal duties of the Regiment were in repairing and manning the forts, in artillery and infantry drill, yet detachments at various times participated in these preliminary expeditions, some of which may be here mentioned. November 25th a detachment from Co. A was sent with Lieut. J. H. Wilson, of the United States Topographical Engineers, "to examine the

ferries from Hilton Head Island to the mainland, situated at Ferry Point and Spanish Welles." December 24th two detachments of forty men each, from Co. A, under Lieut. Thomas W. Fry, and from Co. E, under Capt. James E. Bailey, were sent with Lieut. Wilson upon a somewhat perilous expedition, of three days duration, within the lines of the enemy to examine "the land and water between the Cooper and Savannah Rivers." Reconnoissances were made in boats at night-time almost to the wharves at Savannah. January 8th a detachment from Co. G, under Sergt. James B. Hudson, was sent with the New York Engineers under Major O. T. Beard, to saw off the piles and remove the schooner which closed Wall's Cut, an inland passage from Port Royal to the Savannah, a laborious and perilous task, requiring many nights of assiduous effort. While these and other detachments were participating in reconnoissances in the direction of Bluffton and Savannah, Co. H. was sent from Bay Point northward in the direction of Charleston: one half under Capt. Horatio Rogers, Jr., of Co. H, to Coffin's Point on St. Helena Island, and the other under Lieut. Charles R. Brayton, of the same company, to Brickyard Point on Lady's Island; and Co. I, under Capt. Charles G. Strahan, accompanied an expedition to St. Helena Sound and took possession of, and for the next six months garrisoned Fort Drayton on Otter Island. Reconnoitering parties were constantly sent against the centre of the enemy's line, also on the mainland between Charleston and Savannah. December 18th detachments from Co. C, under Capt. Charles W. H. Day, accompanied a part of the Third New Hampshire, under Lieut.-Col. Jackson, on a reconnoissance upon the steamer "Mayflower" up Coosaw River, on which occasion they manned the light guns in an engagement with a rebel battery.

THE SIEGE OF FORT PULASKI.

Up to January, 1862, the work of the army under Gen. Sherman was only preliminary to a general forward movement. His desire and plan was to strike the line of the enemy between Charleston and Savannah, cut the communications, take Savannah, and possibly Charleston in reverse, and thus open an avenue to the vitals of the Confederacy. This plan required a much larger force than he had at his command, and as Gen. McClellan positively refused

to send the re-inforcements necessary, this plan had to be abandoned. Gen. Sherman and Commodore Du Pont had, from the first, been constantly studying the Charleston and the Savannah problems, and the movements above detailed were factors in the solution. Capt. Quincy A. Gillmore, Chief Engineer, reported, December 1, 1861, the feasibility of reducing Fort Pulaski by siege guns from Tybee Island south of the Fort, but this plan was not definitely adopted and entered upon until late in February, 1862. The first advance in this direction was against the city itself and not against the fort. Gen. Sherman proposed "to open Wall's Cut so that the Navy might throw gunboats into the Savannah above the fort, to erect batteries on some of its islands, cut off Fort Pulaski, shell Fort Jackson, and afterwards the city, without the slow and expensive process of first bombarding Pulaski." This plan was matured and entered upon in January. Companies E and G and detachments from Co. A, of twenty-five men, were selected to man the guns. The joint expedition of army and navy left Port Royal January 26th and rendezvoused on Daufuskie Island. Using this island as a base, the land force under Gen. Egbert L. Viele, directed by Chief Engineer, Capt. Gillmore, was enabled after weeks of most fatiguing labor, to plant batteries upon mud islands on both north and south bank of the Savannah River. Battery Vulcan, at Venus Point on Jones Island, was ready February 11th, and on the 14th defeated, after a sharp engagement, three gun-boats which had come down from the city. February 20th, Capt. Bailey was sent with Co. E and the detachment from Co. A across the Savannah River to man the guns in Fort Hamilton, just completed on Bird Island. The efforts exerted in planting these batteries were herculean, and the passage between the city and the fort was corked as tight as a bottle. Owing to lack of co-operation on the part of the navy, Gen. Sherman was obliged to give up his plan of advance upon Savannah, and was directed by Gen. McClellan to reduce Fort Pulaski by siege from Tybee Island. This order transferred the field of activity from the north to the south side of the fort, and thereby rendered the importance of the service on the north, which was intended as primary, now secondary to that of the force gathering on Tybee Island. The force on the upper Savannah devoted its efforts to strengthening the positions occupied and to repelling the frequent attempts of the enemy to break

through the line of investment, and was enabled to participate in the bombardment of the fort by placing a mortar battery on the lower end of Long Island, manned by a detachment from Companies E and A.

Tybee Island had been occupied early in the preceding December, and from February 21 to April 9, 1862, the batteries upon the island were constructed and equipped as fast as the ordnance arrived from the north. As in the case of the erection of the batteries on the upper river, this labor was of the most fatiguing character. Company F, under Capt. Mason, and Company H, under Capt. Rogers, participated in this work. Company B, under Capt. Tourtellott, arrived April 7th, and the three companies were assigned to batteries as follows: Co. B, to Battery Lyon, 3 ten-inch columbiads, 3100 yards distant from the wall of the fort, under Capt. Tourtellott; Battery Lincoln, 3 eight-inch columbiads, 3045 yards distant, under Lieut. Albert E. Greene; Co. F, Battery Scott, 3 ten-inch columbiads and one eight-inch columbiad, 1740 yards distant, under Capt. Mason; Co. H, Battery McClellan, 2 eighty-four-pounder James rifles and 2 sixty-four-pounder James rifles, 1650 yards distant, under Capt. Rogers. Thus nearly all the breaching batteries were manned by this Regiment; of the seven other batteries, six were equipped with mortars, and most of them at great distance. There were, in all, 16 mortars and 20 guns in the batteries on this island, and 14 of the latter were served by the above companies. On the evening of April 9th all was in readiness. Capt. Gillmore, Chief Engineer, Gen. H. W. Benham, commander of the district, and Gen. David Hunter, who had relieved Gen. Sherman in command of the department on March 31st, were all present. April 10th, at 8:15 A. M., the bombardment opened from the mortar batteries, and by 9:30 all the heavy rifle-guns were in full play. The mortar batteries proved a grievous failure, as less than one-tenth of the 1512 shells thrown by them fell inside the fort, and it became evident before night that the breaching batteries alone must be depended upon to reduce the fort. All these were manned by the men of the Third Rhode Island, with the exception of Battery Sigel, equipped with light pieces, 5 thirty-pounder Parrotts and 1 forty-eight pounder James rifle, which were not served with efficiency during the first day. The bombardment was kept up until evening, and the wall of the fort was fast becoming honey-combed.

One mortar and one 30-pounder Parrott continued the fire all night, to prevent repairs, and at sunrise on the 11th all the batteries opened again with decided effect, until the breach in the wall exposed the magazine and rendered longer resistance dangerous. The firing from both the rifle guns and columbiads was excellent, "the former boring like augurs into the brick face of the wall, the latter striking like trip-hammers and breaking off great masses of masonry that had been cut loose by the rifles." At 2 P. M. the fort surrendered, 385 men, including a full complement of officers, several severely, and one mortally wounded. On the Union side one man only was killed, Thomas Campbell of Co. H. Sergt. George W. Greene, of Co. B, was wounded in the face. None of our guns were hit. The most effective batteries were those served by the Rhode Island men, and in particular the battery of James rifles manned by Co. H, which threw 570 shot and 225 shell. The battery manned by Co. F threw 441 shot, and the one manned by Co. B threw 749 shell. The heavy James rifles of Battery McClellan, under Capt. Rogers, ably seconded by Lieutenants Charles R. Brayton and William C. Barney, were the most effective instruments in reducing the fort, as acknowledged by Gen. Gillmore in his report. The service of these guns, bearing the name of a distinguished Rhode Islander, wrought in this siege a revolution in the use of siege guns. Says Gen. Gillmore: "Had we possessed our present knowledge of their power previous to the bombardment of Fort Pulaski, the eight weeks of laborious preparation for its reduction could have been curtailed to one week, as heavy mortars and columbiads would have been omitted from the armament of the batteries as unsuitable for breaching at long ranges."

Company B was stationed for a month in the captured fort to instruct the Seventh Connecticut in the use of heavy guns. Four men of this company, Sergt. George J. Hill, John A. Gorton, Michael I. Gibbens and Joseph T. Luther, were killed April 14th by the explosion of a shell which they were emptying, and Charles Morgan mortally wounded. April 16th a detachment of sixteen men from Co. F, under Lieut. Augustus W. Colwell, accompanied a reconnoitering expedition of 400 men under Lieut. J. H. Wilson, to Wilmington Island. In a sharp engagement with 800 of the enemy, the Union force lost 10 killed and 35 wounded, of whom some were of Co. F, which manned a six-pounder gun on the

steamer "Honduras." All the companies on the Savannah, except Co. B, returned soon after to Hilton Head, and in May Co. B was replaced in the fort by Co. G, which remained there until May, 1864. Company D was still at Bay Point, Co. I on Otter Island and detachments from Co.'s C and L on Edisto Island. The remainder of the Regiment was for a short time together, and engaged in battalion drills on the sands of Hilton Head.

ADVANCE AGAINST CHARLESTON.

Immediately after establishing the military base at Port Royal, in November, 1861, Gen. Sherman and Com. Du Pont began a diligent study of the Charleston problem and had made incessant reconnoissances in that direction, and after Fort Pulaski fell, they turned their united attention to that city. During the next six months several expeditions were made against the left and centre of the enemy's line, usually by the combined force of army and navy. None of these were eminently successful, nor proved of lasting result. They may be denominated strategic reconnoissances. In most of these, larger or smaller parts of the Third Regiment participated. These may be enumerated in chronological sequence, thus: reconnoissance by way of James Island, in June, 1862, in which a battalion under Major Metcalf participated; a minor reconnoissance at the "White House" in June, in which a small detachment under Major Blanding participated; reconnoissances by way of May River, in August—October, in which Co. G participated; advance against Pocotaligo in October, in which a large part of the Regiment, under Col. Brown, participated; reconnoissance on Daufauskie Island in November, in which Co. C participated; skirmish at Chimney Point in January, 1863, in which Co. A participated. Several of these are of such importance as to require the addition of a few details.

The advance against Charleston via Stono Inlet and James Island began early in May, 1862. Gen. Hunter intended to make a *coup de main* on the city, but was delayed by lack of transportation, and the advance was checked by large re-inforcements on James Island. Companies B, E, F, H and K had been drilling as infantry on Edisto Island since May 23d, and Co. I and sections of C and L were serving in the vicinity as artillery. Early in June all the forces were brought together on James Island, about

10,000 in all, under Gens. Isaac I. Stevens and Horatio G. Wright, and over these Gen. Henry W. Benham, whom Gen. Hunter had left in command. There were daily skirmishes for several days, and on June 9th William Brophy of Co. I was mortally wounded. June 10th, Co. C participated in the engagement precipitated by the attack of the enemy upon the Union camp. June 16th occurred the battle of Secessionville, on James Island, when Gen. Benham attempted to carry the extended earth-works near that village. The attack commenced about 4 o'clock in the morning, and Gen. Stevens led the assaulting column with about 3,500 men and four guns, supported by the division of Gen. Wright and the brigade of Col. Robert Williams, about 3,100 men and six guns. The latter brigade was ordered by Gen. Benham to join the assaulting column, under Gen. Stevens, almost immediately after the attack began. Major Metcalf, with his battalion consisting of Co.'s B, E, F, H and K, led the brigade into action, pushing forward B, F and K as skirmishers under Major Sisson. The battle that raged from 4 to 5 o'clock was severe and destructive, and the firing was protracted until 9 o'clock A. M., when the troops were withdrawn. The losses on the Union side were great: killed 107, wounded 487, missing 89, total 683. The Rhode Island battalion lost: killed 7, wounded 30, missing 8, total 45; of those wounded, Lieut. Erasmus S. Bartholomew died the next day. In addition, Sergt. Martin Heeney of Co. I was killed by the accidental explosion of a shell in the battery manned by that company. The brigade commander specially commended Major Metcalf, and the men under him, for their "courage and soldierly conduct," and Major Metcalf in his report spoke in high praise of the men and officers under him.

The troops were soon withdrawn to Hilton Head, where the "Third" arrived on the Fourth of July, and on the same day arrived a cargo of ice for the Regiment from Providence. Several of those wounded on James Island died here during the summer. The next three months were devoted to garrison duty, battalion drill and recuperation. The only companies absent were, G at Fort Pulaski, D at Bay Point, B at Seabrook, and a detachment from A on the armed transport "George Washington." Detachments from Co. G, under Capt. Gould, accompanied reconnoitering parties up May River into the vicinity of Bluffton during August, September and October, serving the guns upon light steamers and participating in many sharp engagements.

ADVANCE AGAINST POCOTALIGO.

September 17th Gen. Ormsby M. Mitchel assumed command of the Department, and at once commenced expeditions of reconnoissance against the line of the enemy, the principal one of which was against the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, nearly midway between the two cities, at Pocotaligo. This expedition left Port Royal October 21, 1862, under command of Gen. J. M. Brannan, about 4,500 men and several gunboats. The landing was made on the 22d at Mackay's Point, at the junction of the Pocotaligo and Tulifiny Rivers, and the advance toward the village of Pocotaligo at once commenced. The enemy was found at Caston's Plantation, about six miles from the landing, and driven from his position, and later from his position at the Frampton plantation, and finally across the highway bridge near Pocotaligo, which he burned. Further advance was impracticable, and as large re-inforcements were arriving from Savannah and Charleston, the Union force gradually withdrew to Mackay's Point at evening and re-embarked, and returned the next day to Port Royal. The casualties were: killed 43, wounded 294, missing 3, total 340. There were present under Col. Brown, a battalion composed of companies E, K and L, upwards of 300 men. Company M, 50 men under Capt. Comstock, served the boat howitzers, landed from the gunboats. Company G, 50 men under Capt. Gould, accompanied Col. Barton and the 48th New York up the Coosawhatchie River, manning the guns on the steamer "Planter." Company A, 36 men, manned the guns on the "George Washington," and from the upper Pocotaligo River covered the right flank. Lieut. J. B. Blanding of Co. G was severely wounded in arm and side. Corp. J. N. Bogman of Co. G, and Private Joshua W. Thompson of Co. M, were wounded, the former mortally.

The Regiment had ended its first year of service, had endured severe trials, and suffered many losses. The changes among the field and line officers were numerous: Major Metcalf resigned August 5, 1862; Major Sisson, August 6th; Major Blanding, September 3d; Quartermaster Martin, August 30th; Chaplain Gubby, September 25th; Capt. Fourtellott, September 2d, and others had been called to positions in other regiments. Immediately after the return of the expedition against Pocotaligo, Hilton Head was visited by the yellow fever and the Regiment experienced one of

its saddest and most trying campaigns. The losses on the island were very great and the Regiment did not escape its full share. Lieut. Walter B. Manton, Quartermaster of the Regiment, succumbed to the dread disease, October 25th. Col. Brown was seized on the same day and died on the 30th. Gen. Mitchell was attacked on the day of Col. Brown's death, and died in a few hours. Such was the virulence of the scourge, but the men faced it with the same courage and composure which they had so often displayed in the presence of the enemy on the field of battle. Col. Edwin Metcalf assumed command of the Regiment, November 24, 1862. In December Lieut.-Col. Bucklin resigned, and in January, 1863, Major Rogers, who had been promoted from Captain in August, resigned to accept the colonelcy of the Eleventh Regiment. First Lieut. John Frieze of Co. M, promoted to Major in September, was made Lieut.-Colonel in January, 1863, and in the same month, Capt. Day of Co. C, and Capt. Bailey of Co. E, were promoted to be Majors, and in February, Capt. William Ames of the Second Regiment was mustered as Major. The winter was spent in infantry and artillery drill and in garrison duties. A detachment from Co. A, under Lieut. George L. Smith, manned the guns on the armed transport "George Washington," doing picket duty in the waters along the coast. While engaged with a battery on the mainland, north of Pinckney Island, in December, one of the guns burst and seriously wounded Lieut. Smith in the side, and Lieut. Jabez B. Blanding of Co. G, was assigned to the command of the boat, which participated in two of the naval demonstrations against Fort McAllister, in the Ogeechee River, south of Savannah, on February 1 and March 3, 1863. This boat was lost April 9, 1863, under the following circumstances: Gen. Rufus Saxton ordered Capt. Briggs of Co. A, then in camp at Beaufort, to take command of the steamer and proceed with the gunboat "Hale" around Port Royal Island to "Whale Branch, where the latter boat was ordered to take her station." Capt. Briggs had in his command, Lieutenants Blanding and Smith of Co. G, and thirty-four men of Co. A. April 8th they left Beaufort, and about sunset the "Hale" ran aground at the brickyard, south of the Ferry, and both of the boats anchored. At 4.30 A. M. of the 9th, the "Hale" got under way and was out of sight beyond Port Royal Ferry before her absence was discovered on the "Washington," which prepared to follow, and as she rounded Brickyard Point, was attacked by

rebel batteries, which had been brought up during the night, eight guns in all, supported by six companies of infantry and five of cavalry, under command of Gen. W. S. Walker. "The second shot exploded the magazine, unshipped the rudder, broke the steering gear, ripped up the deck and tumbled the howitzer into the hold and destroyed all the ammunition for the James rifle forward. The vessel took fire and began to fill rapidly." The master backed her toward the marsh on the Port Royal Island shore and most of the men were thus enabled to escape, though with much difficulty and after a long struggle in the muddy marsh. Three men were killed, John Hyde and Lyman R. Smith, blown overboard by the explosion, and John Fallon, whose body was burned with the steamer. William J. Greenhalgh, wounded, died in the yawl-boat and was buried by the enemy on the bank of the river. George Smith and Edward Valleley, wounded, died April 12 and 15th. Corp. Albert A. Smith had both legs broken, and later they were amputated. Augustus Blanchard had one leg broken. Corp. Lewis Warner, George L. Eldridge and George W. Stoddard were wounded. The affair was a sad and unfortunate one, and not free from elements of blame.

Co. C, under Capt. Brayton, on several occasions accompanied expeditions into the enemy's country for the capture of property and the rescue of slaves. This Battery served its light guns from the transport "John Adams," and rendered signal service, notably in the expedition up the Combahee River, in June, and again against Darien, Ga.

THE SIEGE OF SUMTER.

Gen. David Hunter resumed command of the Department, January 20, 1863, and commenced plans for a second advance against Charleston. All the available troops were collected in the vicinity of Edisto, Cole and Folly Islands. Col. Metcalf left Hilton Head March 2d, with Companies B, D, F, I, K, L and M in the expedition, which was to co-operate with the navy in the attack upon the defences of Charleston Harbor. Col. Metcalf was Chief of Artillery. In the attack made by the monitors and gunboats upon the forts in the harbor, April 7th, Admiral Du Pont was unable to pass the forts. The monitors proved a miserable failure. The whole expedition was abandoned and the Regiment returned to

Hilton Head. In June, Gen. Gillmore relieved Gen. Hunter, and Admiral John A. Dahlgren relieved Admiral Du Pont in July. Active preparations were commenced at once against Charleston Harbor. The chief aim now was the reduction of Fort Sumter, and an assault upon the city, by the land force, formed no part of Gen. Gillmore's plan. The batteries on the south end of Morris Island were to be taken by *coup de main*, under cover of batteries on Folly Island; Fort Wagner to be captured in the same manner, and Sumter to be reduced by siege batteries from the north end of the island. These operations occupied the summer and fall of 1863, and the Third Regiment played an important part in manning the heavy guns. Companies D and I had been sent to the front early in April, and companies B, C and M, early in July, and manned six of the ten batteries on Folly Island. Col. Metcalf was Post Commander at Hilton Head, and Major Bailey, with Captains Greene, Brayton, Shaw, Strahan and Comstock were at the front. Under cover of the batteries on Folly Island, and a demonstration made against James Island by Gen. Terry with about 3,800 men, Gen. George C. Strong landed with 2,000 men upon Morris Island shortly after daybreak July 10th, and carried all the works on the south end of the island by a gallant assault, and by 9 o'clock three-fourths of the island was occupied. The batteries on Folly Island were served rapidly for two hours previous to the assault. The Union loss was 15 killed and 91 wounded. Two men of Co. D were wounded; Thomas B. Tanner, who lost both arms and also his sight, and Samuel C. Shippee, who lost both arms and died of his wounds soon after his discharge for disability. At daybreak the next morning Gen. Strong attempted to carry Fort Wagner by assault, but was repulsed with a loss of 8 officers and 322 men. The guns and material were now transferred from Folly Island to Morris Island, and new batteries erected there under constant fire from the batteries of the enemy. July 17th these new batteries were ready and manned chiefly by the Third Regiment, and on the 18th at sunset, under cover of these batteries and the gunboats, a desperate assault was made upon Fort Wagner, of three brigades under Gen. Truman Seymour, the first brigade led by Gen. Strong. The fort was gained under a murderous fire and held some three hours, but finally relinquished after great loss: killed, 28 officers and 218 men; wounded, 75 officers and 805 men; missing, 8 officers and 381 men; total, 1,515. Gen.

Strong and several colonels were killed or mortally wounded. Richard F. Johnson of Co. C, and Daniel N. Harvey of Co. M, were wounded. It was decided, on the same day, to erect siege batteries against Wagner and Sumter. The position already occupied was converted into a strong defensive line and took the name of the "first parallel." The "second parallel" was established by a flying sap, 600 yards in advance, on the night of July 23d, and by the 26th equipped with breaching batteries. In a similar manner the "third parallel," 330 yards in advance of the second was established August 9th, and flanking batteries were planted on the marsh to the left and on the beach to the right. Nearly all these breaching guns were served by the Third Regiment, now consisting of Companies B, D, H, I and M. Capt. Colwell had arrived with Co. H, July 19th, and Co. C was still present serving as light artillery. The breaching batteries were ready August 16th, and at break of day on the 17th they opened fire on Wagner, Gregg and Sumter, and maintained it until the evening of the 23d, at which time Sumter was reduced to a condition "alike incapable of annoying our approaches to Wagner or of inflicting injury upon our iron-clads."

All attention was now turned to Wagner and Gregg. A fourth and fifth "parallel" were formed, the latter only 240 yards from the moat around Wagner. Active preparations were making for a third assault upon Wagner, on the morning of September 7th, and the storm of shot and shell upon the fort during the 5th and 6th was terrific. During the night of the 6-7th the enemy quietly slipped away from the island. "The capture of Morris Island and the demolition of Sumter completed those portions of the plan of joint operation against the defenses of Charleston in which the land forces were to take the lead." "Fort Wagner and Battery Gregg were at once strengthened and additional defensive works on the island constructed," and the companies of the Third Regiment placed in charge of the guns. To prevent the remounting of guns on Sumter, the heavy rifle guns on Wagner and Gregg were opened on that fort October 26th, and the fire continued several days until the work was a complete ruin. "With this second bombardment of Sumter ended all aggressive operations for the season against the defenses of Charleston." Among the losses of the Regiment was that of Lieut. Henry Holbrook, of Co. M, who was mortally wounded August 19th, while in command of

Battery Meade. During the winter of 1863-4 a large part of the Regiment remained on Morris Island and was almost constantly, day and night, under fire. In November, Co.'s A and E joined the six already there. Lieut.-Col. Charles R. Brayton, who had been promoted from Captain in November, assumed command of these eight companies at the front, though Col. Metcalf was on Morris Island a part of the winter, as was also Major Ames. Lieut.-Col. Frieze and Major Day had resigned in October, 1863. Major George Metcalf, who had been promoted from Captain in November, was serving at Hilton Head as Post Inspector. In February, 1864, Col. Metcalf resigned, and Lieut.-Col. Brayton was promoted to be Colonel, in April, and Major Ames to be Lieut.-Colonel.

FLORIDA CAMPAIGNS.

Several expeditions had been sent to Florida since the occupation of Port Royal in 1861, but no permanent conquest had been made upon the eastern coast. Early in 1864, Gen. Gillmore planned once more to recover the State, and Companies C and A participated in the movement. A section of Light Battery C, under Lieut. Henry H. Metcalf, left Hilton Head February 6, 1864, in the expedition under Gen. Truman Seymour, which landed at Jacksonville the next day and pushed inland toward Baldwin with about 5,500 troops, and after several days of severe marching and minor engagements, fought a general battle on the 20th, at Olustee, while endeavoring to reach "the Suwanee River, to destroy, if possible, the railroad bridge at that stream." The battle lasted from 3 P. M. until night, and was very severe and the losses heavy. Gen. Joseph Finegan commanded the opposing forces, and the Union force was driven from the field sadly defeated, losing 11 officers and 192 men killed; 42 officers and 1,110 men wounded; 2 officers and 504 men missing; total, 1,861. The section of Battery C lost 1 killed and 5 wounded. The enemy's total loss was 946. After participating in the movement up the St. John's River to Pilatka, in March, the section returned to Hilton Head the latter part of that month, and Light Battery A, with six pieces, under Capt. William H. Hamner, was sent to Florida, where it remained several months and participated in many of the forward movements and suffered quite severely.

Two sections took part in the demonstration against Camp Finegan, under Col. James Shaw, Jr., with 400 men, on May 25, 1864; and the whole battery of six pieces and 130 men participated in the affair at Jacksonville on the 28th, and in the destruction of Camp Milton by Gen. George H. Gordon with 2,500 men, June 1st, and in the engagement of Cedar Creek, June 2d; and took part also in the expedition against Baldwin, July 23-28, under Gen. William Birney, for the destruction of the railroads at that place. Two sections of the Battery accompanied the expedition against Baldwin in August, under Col. William H. Noble, and participated in the skirmishes of the 10th and 12th, and three of these pieces continued with him in the movement to Magnolia, August 15-19. The other piece and 12 men, under Sergt. Alonzo M. Fuller, were sent with a raiding party of some 300 cavalry and mounted infantry, under Col. A. L. Harris, of the 75th Ohio.

They left Baldwin on the morning of the 15th and while resting and feeding after an all-night's march, early in the morning of the 17th, at Gainesville, they were surprised, and after a stubborn fight of two hours were completely routed by a cavalry force under Major J. J. Dickison. A revised report of casualties is not on record. Nearly the whole command was killed or captured. Of the detachment of Battery A, Mitchell Prew was killed and all the rest were captured and sent to the prison-pen at Andersonville, except J. H. Wheaton, who was never heard from. Battery A was sent to Beaufort, S. C., September 24, 1864.

RE-ORGANIZATION.

In January, all who had already served two years were given an opportunity to re-enlist as "veterans" for an additional period of three years, and 300 men availed themselves of this opportunity, and during the spring went home on a furlough of thirty days. The return and muster out of those who did not re-enlist was in detachments, as the companies were widely scattered, and at different times, as the expiration of the first term of service differed in the different companies. August 24, Captains Charles G. Strahan and Peter J. Turner arrived in Providence with the first detachment, 3 officers and 117 men, of Co.'s A, E and I, who were mustered out August 31, 1864.

September 30th, Col. Brayton and most of the field and line

officers arrived with another detachment, 256 officers and men, who were mustered out October 4, 1864. Both these detachments were handsomely welcomed and entertained by the State officials, by the militia and by the citizens. The "veterans" were consolidated into five companies under command of Lieut.-Col. William Ames, and in October were stationed as follows: Light Battery A, under Capt. William H. Hammer, at Beaufort; Co. B, under Capt. Augustus W. Colwell, on Morris Island; Light Battery C, under Capt. Martin S. James, in Virginia; Co. L, under Capt. Jeremiah Lanahan, and Co. M, under Capt. John M. Barker, on Morris Island. In March, 1865, companies L and M were mustered out, and the "veterans" in these two companies were consolidated into a company called New Co. D, under Capt. John M. Barker. Lieut.-Col. Ames was appointed Chief of Artillery of the Department of the South, September 27, 1864.

SERVICE IN CHARLESTON HARBOR.

After the reduction of Sumter in October, 1863, even until the surrender of Charleston in February, 1865, several companies remained on Morris Island and manned the guns in Wagner, Chatfield, Gregg and the smaller batteries, which were equipped with 300, 200, 100 and 30-pounder Parrots and mortars, and were almost incessantly under fire in artillery contests with the forts in the harbor, Moultrie, Beauregard, Johnson and others, as also in shelling the city, firing sometimes 10,000 shot and shell a month. Men were lost, at times, almost daily. Even a synopsis of the varied and important services performed here by the Regiment, for a year and a half, would render this brief account of the history of the Regiment too extended. Such services require a separate book. During the spring and summer of 1864, the companies on Morris Island were E, F, H, I and M, under Lieut.-Col. Ames. Companies D, G, K and L were at Fort Pulaski, under Major Bailey. Battery A was in Florida and C in Virginia, and Co. B at Hilton Head, the headquarters of Col. Brayton, who was Chief of Artillery on the staff of Gen. Gillmore.

In May, 1864, Gen. John G. Foster assumed command of the Department and commenced immediate attacks all along the line of the railroad, between Charleston and Savannah, in several of which, parts of the Regiment participated. These demonstrations

were made by order of Gen. Grant, and the main purpose was to prevent the enemy from sending forces to Virginia, which object was fully attained. July 1st and 2d, Gen: Foster made a demonstration, with 5,000 men and artillery, against Charleston and the railroad by way of John's Island, supported by a force of 2,000 men from Morris Island, under Gen. Schimmelfennig against James Island, with whom were detachments from the Third Regiment, accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Ames. On the night of the 2d and 3d an assault was made at midnight, from Morris Island against Fort Johnson on James Island, in boats, by a force of 1,000 men, under Col. Gurney, of the 127th New York. Lieut.-Col. Ames returned from John's Island in time to accompany the assaulting party, and 60 men of the Third Regiment, under Capt. Churchill, formed a part of the force. The assault was a failure and the loss heavy, upwards of 150. Peter Connolly, of Co. F, was killed. Such excursions as these but varied the constant, heavier work of the Regiment. On July 8th a heavy bombardment was re-commenced against Sumter and continued until the fort was reduced to a condition beyond repair.

THE LIGHT BATTERIES IN THE FIELD.

When Gen. Gillmore was ordered to Virginia in the spring of 1864, with all the men that could be spared from the Department of the South, Light Battery C, under Capt. James, went with him. The Battery left Hilton Head, April 30, 1864, and joined the army of the James, under Gen. Butler, and participated in all the movements of that Army until the fall of Richmond, and took part in the engagements at Drury's Bluff, Appomattox River, Laurel Hill, Fort Burnham, and in the siege of Petersburg.

Light Battery A, after its return from Florida in September, 1864, was stationed for a short time at Beaufort, and was then sent to join the forces, co-operating with Gen. William T. Sherman, and was thus engaged until the surrender of Lee and Johnston. In November Gen. Foster sent an expedition, under Gen. John P. Hatch, to break, if possible, the railroad connection between Charleston and Savannah, and thus open a way for Gen. Sherman to reach the sea. The expedition consisted of upwards of 5,000 infantry, artillery and cavalry. Lieut.-Col. Ames commanded the artillery brigade, to which was attached Battery A, under Capt.

Hamner. The expedition left Hilton Head November 28th, and landed late the next day at Boyd's Neck, on the west bank of Broad River, with the intention of cutting the railroad near Grahamville. The enemy was met and driven back that afternoon, and on November 30th was fought the battle of Honey Hill, just south of Grahamville. The enemy was strongly entrenched on rising ground, protected in front by swamps and thick woods. The battle was stubbornly fought from morning till night, when orders were given for retreat to a defensive line near Boyd's Neck. The artillery brigade, under Lieut.-Col. Ames, was severely crippled, and as night approached all the batteries were choked in a narrow road under a galling fire. With persistent effort and imperturbable coolness, Lieut.-Col. Ames succeeded in extricating all his guns. No fighting could be severer than that which raged during the closing hours of this day. Our loss was extraordinarily large considering the number engaged: killed, 89; wounded, 629; missing, 28; total, 746. The next day Battery A was sent forward again to assist in driving back the approaching enemy, and a sharp encounter took place. Earth works were thrown up back of Boyd's Neck and held while the expedition re-organized. December 6th Gen. Hatch landed a part of his force at Deveaux's Neck, farther up and on the other side of Broad River, and here met a large force and drove it back upon Coosawhatchie. Between the 6th and 9th the fighting was at times severe, specially on the 9th, when the skirmish line forced its way to within a short distance of the railroad and the forts which guarded it, and held the position until the woods were cut away for the batteries. Earth works were thrown up, the artillery planted, and a line thus secured which commanded the railroad. This line was held until Gen. Sherman reached Savannah, and Gen. Hardee was unable to use the Savannah and Charleston railroad when he evacuated the former city. When Gen. Sherman commenced his march northward, in February, 1865, the division of Gen. Hatch, to which Battery A belonged, joined his right wing at Pocotaligo and participated in the march and engagements through South Carolina, as far north as the Santee River. Later, the Battery returned to Charleston, where for a long time it was stationed, and then was sent back to Beaufort. In May, one section, under Lieut. Eben W. Waterhouse, was sent to Savannah, and there ordered to join Gen. Washburn's brigade of the 19th Corps, in its march to

Augusta to intercept Jefferson Davis, and in June this section returned to Savannah and there passed the summer.

MUSTER OUT.

At the close of the war the Regiment arrived home in the following order: June 12, 1865, Light Battery C, 4 officers and 92 men, under Capt. James, arrived in Providence, having already been mustered out in Richmond, Va.; August 1st, Light Battery A, 5 officers and 83 men, under Capt. Hamner, arrived and were mustered out August 4th; August 27th, Co.'s B and D, and others not previously discharged, numbering 9 officers and 170 men, under Lieut.-Col. Ames, were mustered out at Charleston, S. C., and on their arrival at Providence these companies were warmly received and entertained by the State officials.

Thus closed the services of the largest military organization ever sent into the field by the State of Rhode Island, and one whose term of service extended from August 14, 1861, to August 27, 1865.

The following table of number and casualties is made up from the roll that follows:

	Total.	Aggregate.
Number of separate names on roll.....	1723	
Number of re-enlisted of "Veterans".....	300	
Aggregate number of men enrolled.....	—	2023
Number killed.....	39	
Number died of wounds.....	17	
Number died of disease and other causes.....	77	
Aggregate number killed and deceased.....	—	133
Number wounded.....	80	
Number discharged for disability.....	269	

In accordance with the instructions of the War Department and by authority of Gen. Grant, Major Gen. Gillmore issued an order that the names of the following sieges and battles should be inscribed upon the colors of the Regiment:

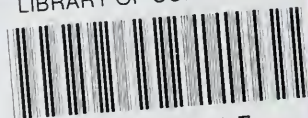
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Fort Pulaski, | Drury's Bluff, |
| Secessionville, | Laurel Hill, |
| Pocotaligo, | Honey Hill, |
| Morris Island, | Deveaux Neck, |
| Fort Sumter, | Fort Burnham, |
| Fort Wagner, | Petersburg. |
| Olustee, | |





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